

Columbia F.O.P. Lodge # 26



Post Office Box 267, Columbia, Missouri 65205

For Immediate Release

Columbia F.O.P. Requests Burton's Resignation, Decision Supported by State F.O.P.

The Columbia F.O.P. has repeatedly tried to communicate with the Chief to improve morale within the Department and eliminate inconsistent practices and policies. Despite this, the Chief has continued to take the department in the wrong direction. It is the Columbia Police Officers' desire to make the Department the best law enforcement agency it can be. We continue to advocate for change within the department.

Chief Burton does not share this goal. He continues to damage the reputation of this Department, along with the reputations of officers and the City of Columbia as a whole. Since he began his employment with the Columbia Police Department, the Chief has consistently shed an unfavorable and demoralizing light on our department. He has continued his negative campaign with misleading statements and disparaging remarks. Through his negative campaign, he misinforms the public and prevents them from having a dependable relationship with their police officers.

This review contains information regarding the Chief's questionable integrity. As evidenced by this review, the Chief has committed numerous policy and city ordinance violations. This incredible behavior has continued after the release of Mr. Anderson's report, which warned of a "supervisory culture approaching toxicity." Once the credibility and integrity of a law enforcement officer has been irreversibly compromised, that officer can no longer be effective in that role. This standard also applies to Chief Burton.

The Columbia F.O.P. believes that for the department to continue in the right direction, to effectively serve and protect its citizens, Chief Burton must be removed from his current position as Chief of Police. In order to achieve positive change and effective growth, Ken Burton must be relieved of his command.

Sincerely,

THE COLUMBIA F.O.P. LODGE # 26

To be contacted at:
Ashley Cuttle, Executive Director
(217) 220-5451 • cpoadirector@gmail.com